



'Bad Deal'

Netanyahu Criticizes Iran Nuclear Negotiations

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel addresses a joint meeting of Congress in the Capitol Building in Washington, March 3, 2015. Netanyahu used one of the most prominent platforms in the world Tuesday to warn against what he called a “bad deal” being negotiated with Iran to freeze its nuclear program, culminating a drama that has roiled Israeli-American relations for weeks.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)
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Villarrica volcano erupts in southern Chile, thousands flee



The Villarrica volcano erupts near Pucon, Chile, early Tuesday, March 3, 2015. The Villarrica volcano erupted Tuesday around 3 a.m. local time (0600 GMT), according to the National Emergency Office, which issued a red alert and ordered evacuations.

(AP Photo/Aton Chile)

**EVA VERGARA
GABRIELA ULLOA
Associated Press
PUCON, Chile (AP)** — One of South America's most active volcanoes erupted early Tuesday in southern Chile, spewing heavy smoke into the air as lava surged down its slopes, prompting authorities to evacuate thousands of people.

The Villarrica volcano erupted around 3 a.m. local time, according to the National Emergency Office, which issued a red alert and ordered evacuations. Local media showed images of the volcano bursting at the top, glowing in the dark amid heavy smoke and rivers of lava. Authorities worried that mudslides caused by melting snow could endanger nearby communities, but no injuries were reported.

The 9,000 foot (2,847-meter) volcano in Chile's central valley, 400 miles (670 kilometers) south of Santiago, sits above the small city of Pucon, which has a population of about 22,000 people.

"It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen," 29-year-old Australian tourist Travis Armstrong said in a telephone interview from Pucon. "I've never seen a volcano erupt and it was spewing lava and ash hun-

dreds of meters into the air. Lightning was striking down at the volcano from the ash cloud that formed from the eruption."

Chilean authorities had issued an orange alert on Monday because of increased activity at the volcano. About 3,500 people have been evacuated so far, including tourists, said Interior and Security Minister Rodrigo Penailillo. Penailillo warned that the eruption was causing numerous rivers in the area to rise as snow along the sides of the volcano began melting. Villarrica is covered by a glacier cap covering some 40 square kilometers (15 square miles) and snow from about 1,500 meters (about 5,000 feet) on up. Authorities were keeping an eye on four nearby communities that could be endangered by mudslides as the snow melts. Officials were also monitoring nearly 200 people who were cut off from main roads when two bridges were destroyed by rising waters from nearby rivers.

Rodrigo Alvarez, director of the National Service of Geology and Mining, issued a warning for people in the area, especially at tourists, to be careful. "This is not a fireworks show," Alvarez said, calling on people to obey official prohibitions

to stay away from the volcano.

"It's an unstable volcano, all of its borders are altered," Alvarez added.

President Michelle Bachelet arrived in Pucon amid cheers and boos later Tuesday to check on safety preparations, and declared an agricultural emergency to help local farmers.

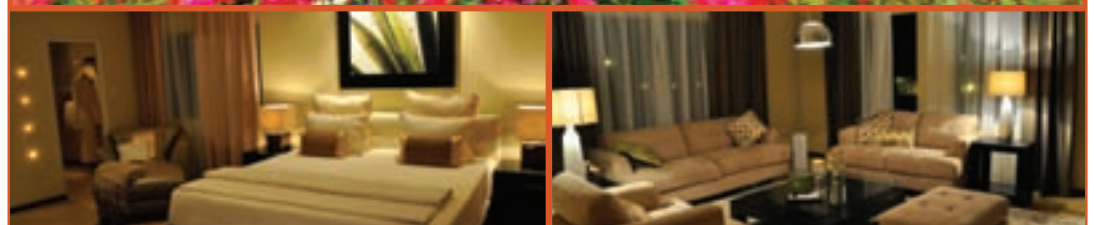
"You never know when an eruption will take place but what we do know is that the activity is lower, that's visible," Bachelet said after flying over the affected areas and meeting local authorities.

Witnesses said Pucon looked like a deserted town at dawn. But as the volcanic activity decreased, some local residents had decided to return to their

homes, more cars were seen in the streets, and some people had even decided to sunbathe at a nearby lake. By midday, the community's bus terminals, banks, restaurants and other businesses were operating normally.

The eruption "was something beautiful and amazing. We're still a bit shocked but the volcano has calmed down so I'm going to continue with my vacation," Alejandra Paz Bustos, 29, said as she sunbathed at nearby lake Villarrica.

Jose Manuel Reyes, the 37-year-old manager of La Bicicleta hostel in downtown Pucon, said visitors from France, Canada, Australia, South Africa and Brazil watched the early morning eruption from the building's terrace. □

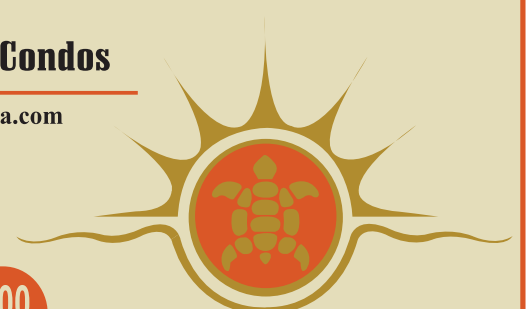


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Netanyahu criticizes Iran nuclear negotiations

PETER BAKER

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WASHINGTON - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel used one of the most prominent platforms in the world Tuesday to warn against what he called a "bad deal" being negotiated with Iran to freeze its nuclear program, culminating a drama that has roiled Israeli-American relations for weeks.

In an implicit challenge to President Barack Obama, Netanyahu told a joint meeting of Congress that Iran's "tentacles of terror" were already clutching Israel and that failing to stop Tehran from obtaining nuclear weapons "could well threaten the survival of my country." The deal Obama seeks will not prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, he said, but "will all but guarantee" it. "We must all stand together to stop Iran's march of conquest, subjugation



President Barack Obama speaks about Iran and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress, Tuesday, March 3, 2015, during a meeting with Defense Secretary Ash Carter in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. The president said Netanyahu didn't offer any "viable alternatives" to the nuclear negotiations with Iran during his speech to Congress.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

and terror," Netanyahu told the lawmakers, who responded with repeated standing ovations.

Less than two hours later, Obama sharply rebutted Netanyahu before he attended a meeting with the

new defense secretary, Ash Carter. Obama offered a vigorous defense of the deal he has proposed to Iran and argued that the Israeli leader's speech was "nothing new" with no other credible approach.

"The prime minister didn't offer any viable alternative," Obama said. He added: "The alternative the prime minister offers is no deal, in which case Iran will immediately begin once again to pursue a nuclear program, accelerate its nuclear program, without us having any insight into what they're doing and without constraints." Netanyahu's address, by far the most anticipated speech to Congress by a foreign leader in many years, has generated resentment and reinforcement from different quarters while driving a partisan wedge between Democrats and Republicans. While he was escorted to the rostrum by a bipartisan delegation of lawmakers and greeted with raucous enthusiasm, especially by Republicans, more than 50 Democrats skipped the event.

Netanyahu tried to defuse some of the political edge that preceded his arrival by praising Obama for all he has done to support Israel. Netanyahu cited several instances when he called the president for help, such as seeking more missile interceptors during Israel's military operations against Hamas. "I will always be grateful to President Obama for that support," Netanyahu told lawmakers.

And he repeated a comment he made elsewhere Monday lamenting the furor that surrounded his visit. "I deeply regret that some perceive my being here as political," he said. "That was never my intention. I want to thank you Democrats and Republicans for your common support for Israel, year after year, decade after decade."

But he did not succeed in

mollifying all Democrats. Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the party's House leader, appeared agitated on the floor during the speech and later issued a statement saying she "was near tears" because she was "saddened by the insult to the intelligence of the United States" and "the condescension toward our knowledge of the threat posed by Iran."

He argued that Iran remains as radical and untrustworthy as ever, even though it and the United States are effectively on the same side in battling the Islamic State, also known as ISIS. "This regime will always be an enemy of America," Netanyahu said. "Don't be fooled. The battle between Iran and ISIS doesn't turn Iran into a friend of America. Iran and ISIS are competing for the crown of militant Islam."

Sitting in the packed gallery of the House chamber were Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor and Nobel peace laureate; Sheldon Adelson, the Republican casino magnate and one of Netanyahu's prime backers; and Newt Gingrich, the former speaker of the House. Vice President Joe Biden was out of the country, so standing next to Speaker John A. Boehner behind the Israeli prime minister was Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, who serves as president pro tempore of the Senate.

For Netanyahu, the stakes could hardly be higher. Coming just two weeks before Israeli elections, the speech offered an opportunity to build support at home for another term while rallying opposition abroad to a diplomatic accord that he sees as a threat to his country's security. □

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Republicans back down in standoff over Homeland Security

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-led House of Representatives backed down Tuesday in a dispute that could have led to a partial shutdown of the agency overseeing U.S. borders, handing a major victory to President Barack Obama. Congress sent Obama a bill to fund the Homeland Security Department through the end of the budget year, without overturning the president's immigration policies. Republican leaders did not give in to conservatives' demand that the bill also roll back Obama's directives sparing millions of immigrants from deportation. Democrats had insisted on legislation to fund the department, which shares responsibility for anti-terrorism operations, without any conditions. The House voted 257-167 in favor of the \$40 billion spending bill, which Obama was expected to sign promptly. All 182 Democrats present voted for the bill, while it received only 75 Republican "yes" votes. The Republicans' retreat underscored the limits on their power despite the party's widespread gains in November's elections. House Speaker John Boehner outlined the dwindling options for his deeply divided Republican caucus

on Tuesday morning after the Senate left the House with little choice. Boehner pointed out that the issue of Obama's executive actions on immigration last fall

Boehner told his caucus, according to aides. "I believe this decision — considering where we are — is the right one for this team, and the right one for this

constitutional overreach, they had no more moves to make. A federal court ruling has temporarily blocked the administration from implementing the new immigra-

decision angered several conservatives, while some Republicans welcomed Boehner's move.

Rep. Mike Simpson said he, too, opposes Obama's executive actions on immigration. Yet he also said the "security of the homeland is one of our highest priorities," and added that Congress could continue to oppose the president without forcing a partial agency shutdown that loomed for Friday. Whatever the final result of the struggle, controversy over the legislation has produced partisan gridlock in the first several weeks of the new Congress.

For the first time in Obama's presidency, Republicans have full control of Congress after capturing the Senate in November. They also won more seats in the House than at any time in 70 years. Democratic unity blocked passage in the Senate of House-passed legislation with the immigration provisions. By late last week, a split in House Republican ranks brought the department to the brink of a partial shutdown.

That was averted when Congress approved a one-week funding bill that Obama signed into law only moments before a midnight Friday deadline. □



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio returns to his office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 3, 2015, as the House votes on funding for the Homeland Security Department without provisions attached to counter President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration. Despite holding the majority in the Senate and the House, Republicans were unable to overcome united opposition from Senate Democrats to the GOP strategy of trying to overturn Obama's immigration plan by linking them to funding for Homeland. They also suffered embarrassing internal divisions that left the country within hours of a partial agency shutdown last week.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

is now in the hands of the courts. "I am as outraged and frustrated as you at the lawless and unconstitutional actions of this president,"

country." House Republicans said that after months spent railing against Obama's executive actions, which most Republicans view as an un-

tion rules. The administration has appealed the decision, and the ultimate result of the legal challenge is unknown. The Republican leadership's

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Officials:

U.S. report finds racial bias in Ferguson police

ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. Justice Department investigation found sweeping patterns of racial bias within the Ferguson, Missouri, police department — with officers routinely discriminating against blacks by using excessive force, issuing petty citations and making baseless traffic stops, according to law enforcement officials familiar with the report. The report, which could be released as soon as Wednesday, marks the culmination of a months-long investigation into a police department that federal officials have described as troubled and that com-

manded national attention after one of its officers shot and killed an unarmed black man, 18-year-old Michael Brown, last summer. It chronicles discriminatory practices across the city's criminal justice system, detailing problems from initial encounters with patrol officers to treatment in the municipal court and jail. The full report could serve as a road map for significant changes by the department, if city officials accept its findings. The Justice Department investigation found that black motorists from 2012 to 2014 were more than twice as likely to be stopped and searched as whites, even though they were less likely



to be found carrying contraband, according to a summary of the findings.

A man watches protesters during a rally for Michael Brown, who was killed by police in Ferguson, Mo. A U.S. Justice Department investigation found sweeping patterns of racial bias within the Ferguson, Missouri, police department, with officers routinely discriminating against blacks by using excessive force, issuing petty citations and making baseless traffic stops.
(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

The review also found that blacks were 68 percent less likely than others to have their cases dismissed by a municipal court judge. And from April to September of last year, 95 percent of people kept at the city jail for more than two days were black, it found. Of the cases in which the police department documented the use of force, 88 percent involved blacks. Overall, African Americans make up 67 percent of Ferguson's population. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly before the report is made public. The Justice Department began the civil rights investigation following the August killing of Brown, which set off weeks of protests. A separate report to be issued soon is expected to clear the officer, Darren

Wilson, of federal civil rights charges. The report provides direct evidence of racial bias among police officers and court workers, and details a criminal justice system that through the issuance of petty citations for infractions such as walking in the middle of the street, prioritizes generating revenue from fines over public safety. The practice hits poor people especially hard, sometimes leading to jail time when they can't pay, the report says, and has contributed to a cynicism about the police on the part of citizens. Among the report's findings was a racially tinged 2008 message in a municipal email account stating that President Barack Obama would not be president for very long because "what black man holds a steady job for four years." □

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US Financial Front:

America is running out of room to store oil glut



This photo shows the manifolds that regulate the input and output of oil to the White Cliffs pipeline at the SemCrude tank farm north of Cushing, Okla. For weeks, the U.S. has been producing and importing an average of 1 million more barrels of oil every day than it is consuming, pushing U.S. supplies to their highest point in at least 80 years, the Energy Department reported. (AP Photo/Tulsa World, Michael Wyke)

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. has so much crude that it is running out of places to put it, and that could drive oil and gasoline prices even lower in the coming months.

For the past seven weeks, the United States has been producing and importing an average of 1 million more barrels of oil every day than it is consuming. That extra crude is flowing into storage tanks, especially at the country's main trading hub in Cushing, Oklahoma, pushing U.S. supplies to their highest point in at least 80 years, the Energy Department reported last week.

If this keeps up, storage tanks could approach their operational limits, known in the industry as "tank tops," by mid-April and send the price of crude — and probably gasoline, too — plummeting.

"The fact of the matter is we are running out of storage capacity in the U.S.," Ed Morse, head of commodities research at Citibank, said at a recent symposium at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Morse has suggested oil

could fall all the way to \$20 a barrel from the current \$50. At that rock-bottom price, oil companies, faced with mounting losses, would stop pumping oil until the glut eased. Gasoline prices would fall along with crude, though lower refinery production, because of seasonal factors and unexpected outages, could prevent a sharp decline.

The national average price of gasoline is \$2.44 a gallon (64 cents a liter). That's \$1.02 cheaper (27 cents per liter cheaper) than last year at this time, but up 37 cents (10 cents per liter) over the past month.

Other analysts agree that crude is poised to fall sharply — if not all the way to \$20 — because it continues to flood into storage for a number of reasons:

— U.S. oil production continues to rise. Companies are cutting back on new drilling, but that won't reduce supplies until later this year.

— The new oil being produced is light, sweet crude, which is a type many U.S. refineries are not designed to process. Oil companies can't just get rid of it by sending it abroad, because crude exports are

restricted by federal law.

— Foreign oil continues to flow into the U.S., both be-

cause of economic weakness in other countries and to feed refineries designed to process heavy, sour crude.

— This is the slowest time of year for gasoline demand, so refiners typically reduce or stop production to perform maintenance. As refiners process less crude, supplies build up.

— Oil investors are making money buying and storing oil because of the difference between the current price of oil and the price for delivery in far-off months. An investor can buy oil at \$50 today and enter into a contract to sell it for \$59 in December, locking in a profit even after paying for storage during those months. □

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Iraqi forces press Tikrit offensive against Islamic State

ANNE BARNARD

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BAGHDAD - Iraqi army forces and Shiite militia fighters on Tuesday pressed their assault on the city of Tikrit, seeking to encircle Islamic State strongholds on the second day of the government's largest offensive yet against the militant group that has seized large portions of Iraqi territory.

By afternoon, military officials said, government forces had reached the outskirts of Dour, just south of Tikrit, and were advancing slowly after freeing 13 police officers held there by Islamic State fighters.

Images from Iraqi news channels showed convoys of armored vehicles crossing the flat yellow expanse of Salahuddin province and government fighters firing heavy machine guns from behind cinder block walls in an area of low-slung houses.

The scenes were interspersed with patriotic appeals to Iraqis to join the army or the militias, which are known as "popular mobilization" forces.

The operation to retake Tikrit, the birthplace of the former ruler Saddam Hussein, is seen as a testing ground for Iraqi forces in preparation for an assault on Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, which the Islamic State seized nearly nine months ago along with parts of northern and western Iraq.

The Tikrit offensive could either prove to be a first step toward driving back the Islamic State or it could deepen longstanding sectarian and political divides that the militants have exploited to win support from some Iraqi Sunnis and acquiescence from others. The group has also employed brutal intimidation tactics against Sunnis who reject it or support the government in Baghdad.

But at the same time, Shiite militias have been accused of reprisals and atrocities against the Sunni population, many of whom regard them with suspicion and fear.

The Tikrit operation carries emotional weight for Iraqis, as the first attempt to seize the area since last June, when Islamic State militants massacred more than 1,000 Iraqi Shiite soldiers as they fled a nearby military base, Camp Speicher. There have been fears that Shiite militia members from the same areas that many of the soldiers hailed from could take revenge on local Sunnis if they enter Tikrit, and some militia leaders have openly referred to the assault as a revenge operation, potentially complicating efforts to recruit Sunnis.

Tikrit has additional symbolic resonance as one of the last cities to fall in the U.S. invasion in 2003.

Even as U.S. troops there used Hussein's palace as a

base, the city and the surrounding Salahuddin province became a fulcrum of the insurgency against the U.S. occupation. Camp Speicher, originally a U.S. base, is named for one of the Americans killed by insurgents.

Islamic State supporters have been circulating a report online that an Ameri-

According to SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks militant movements online, the message referred to the bomber only as Abu Dawoud al-Amriki and said that he had killed dozens of Shiites, referring to them with slurs against the sect. Iraqi military officials confirmed there had been a truck bombing in Samarra

vance toward Tikrit from the west, the officials said, backed by Iraqi jets and helicopters and reportedly by top-level Iranian commanders, but not, so far, by United States warplanes, unlike in previous operations. Reuters reported that the Iranian spymaster Qassim Suleimani was seen near the front lines with



Volunteers in the "Peace Brigades" raise their weapons and chant slogans against the Islamic State during a parade in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq. Iraqi army forces and Shiite militia fighters on Tuesday pressed their assault on the city of Tikrit, seeking to encircle Islamic State strongholds on the second day of the government's largest offensive yet against the militant group that has seized large portions of Iraqi territory.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

can member of the group blew himself up Monday in a suicide truck bombing on the outskirts of the nearby city of Samarra, the jumping-off point for the Iraqi assault on Tikrit.

on Monday and said it had killed three militia volunteers and wounded 12, with no information about the bomber's identity. Additional forces were awaiting orders to ad-

Hadi al-Ameri, an Iraqi militia leader and politician who has long headed the Badr Organization, one of Iraq's main Shiite militias, and now oversees the popular mobilization units. □



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As Nemtsov buried, Russian opposition faces gloomy future

L. MILLS

V. ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — After paying their final tributes Tuesday to slain Kremlin

likely to add vigor to the small and marginalized opposition, or dent the broad public support for President Vladimir Putin.

Many believe that his

reprisals.

Thousands of mourners and dignitaries filed past Nemtsov's white-lined coffin, and many wept as they offered flowers.

its scheduled four hours, a line still stretched for hundreds of meters (yards) outside the hall named for the Soviet-era dissident and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov.

Mourner Marsel Shamsudinov said he had come from Kazan, 700 kilometers (450 miles) east of Moscow, to show that unlike the vast majority of Russians who watch nothing but state-run TV, there are people "who do think and see that the government system is unfair and that we need to change a lot in our country." But while feelings of anger and grief ran strong at the funeral, few believe that the opposition — fragmented and weakened after years of relentless crackdowns — could pose a serious challenge

to Putin, who is supported by 85 percent of Russians, according to recent polls. Kremlin critics say the virulent nationalist propaganda on state television, which cast the 55-year-old Nemtsov and other liberals as Western stooges, helped prepare the ground for his killing on Friday night.

Nemtsov had been a deputy prime minister under Russia's first elected president, Boris Yeltsin, who touted him as his likely successor before opting instead for Putin. Although his influence in mainstream politics vanished, Nemtsov had remained one of Putin's most vehement critics. In a radio interview a few hours before his death, he denounced the president for his "mad, aggressive" policies in Ukraine. □



Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, member of the band Pussy Riot stands at the grave of Boris Nemtsov after a burial ceremony at Troekurovskoye cemetery in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, March 3, 2015. One by one, thousands of mourners and dignitaries filed past the white-lined coffin of slain Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov on Tuesday, many offering flowers as they paid their last respects to one of the most prominent figures of Russia's beleaguered opposition. (AP Photo/Denis Tyrin)

critic Boris Nemtsov, many members of Russia's beleaguered opposition are looking into the future with gloom.

The sadness and loss that drew thousands to Nemtsov's funeral is un-

likely to add vigor to the small and marginalized opposition, or dent the broad public support for President Vladimir Putin. Many believe that his

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Lawyer: Snowden wants to return home

MOSCOW (AP) — NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden wants to return to the United States from Russia if he's guaranteed a fair trial, his Russian lawyer said Tuesday.

Anatoly Kucherena told a news conference Tuesday that he has teamed up with U.S. and German lawyers to work on the issue, but gave no further details. Snowden was stranded in a Moscow airport in 2013 on his way from Hong Kong to Cuba, shortly af-

ter he released extensive documentation about the National Security Agency's surveillance programs. Russia has granted him asylum, attracting the ire of the United States.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has denied that the nation's security agencies had worked with Snowden. Snowden's whereabouts have not been made public. Kucherena said Snowden moves freely but is accompanied by guards. "He goes shopping, he vis-

its museums and theaters under escort," he said.

He said Snowden's long-time girlfriend, Lindsay Mills, visited him in Moscow. "They have a very good relationship," he said, adding that he rejects other potential dates offered for Snowden. The lawyer, who presented his book about Snowden, praised him as a "heroic and open person," who has "principles and convictions" and didn't hesitate to defy the U.S. government. □

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Greece poised for recession as uncertainty takes its toll

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Barely a year after emerging from a savage recession comparable in its intensity to the Great Depression in the U.S., Greece's economy is shrinking again. The uncertainty generated by January's general election and the drama over extending Greece's financial lifeline is helping to push the economy back toward recession despite encouraging signs from the tourism sector, the country's biggest money earner.

The uncertainty, which started toward the end of

2014 when early elections were called, has damaged confidence among investors, consumers and business owners.

Though few official economic figures for the first months of 2015 are available, surveys suggest the manufacturing sector is contracting as both foreign and domestic clients are more hesitant to make new orders. And the financial system has been shaken by an apparent increase in deposit withdrawals by worried savers, which is seen to have hurt investment.

When figures last fall showed the Greek econ-



A homeless man reads a book in central Athens, on Monday, March 2, 2015. Greece appears headed to re-enter recession this quarter, after starting to expand again last year following a punishing six-year recession that led to record-high joblessness.

(AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

omy finally growing again after a recession that saw it shrink by a quarter and unemployment and poverty levels swell dramatically, then Prime Minister Antonis Samaras said "Greece is back."

The return has been brief — three quarters in fact.

In the last three months of 2014, the Greek economy shrank by a quarterly rate of 0.4 percent, double the initial estimate. If the first quarter of 2015 is negative, Greece will officially be back in recession — not something most economic forecasters were predicting just a few months back. "Following the first contraction in activity in a year during the fourth quarter of 2014, the economy is anticipated to enter recession," said IHS senior economist Diego Iscaro.

The main reason behind his assessment is the uncertainty generated by the early elections and the bailout renegotiation between the new left-wing Syriza government and Greece's international creditors.

As the negotiations dragged on, fears of a Greek exit from the euro — so-called "Grexit" — ratcheted higher. That was most evident in the banking sector, where there were signs of savers pulling money out in droves.

After weeks of intense to-ing and fro-ing between Greece and its creditors in the 19-country eurozone, the sides agreed to a four-month extension to the country's bailout to June. In return, Greece has committed to operate making a series of economic reforms.

Phil Smith, an economist at financial information company Markit, which compiles a monthly survey into the manufacturing sector, said Greece's economy continues to "struggle under the weight of uncertainty." Markit's February survey found manufacturing output falling at its fastest rate for 16 months and its key gauge of business activity is in recession territory.

"Factories reported hesitancy among clients at

home and abroad to commit to new orders," he said. When the current bailout ends, Greece will most likely need further financial support to make ends meet. There's no guarantee it will get more help and its future in the euro could hang in the balance again.

Vassilis Korkidis, head of Greece's National Confederation of Commerce, said the recent deal with creditors gave Greece's economy a "last-minute kiss of life and avoided the so-called sudden death," but cautioned that any respite was "temporary."

Whatever growth Greece ekes out in 2015 is likely to be markedly lower than expected just a few weeks ago, a sign of the damage wrought by the bailout deliberations. As recently as early February, the European Union was predicting that Greece would be one of the fastest-growing eurozone economies in 2015, with growth of 2.5 percent. Douglas Renwick, a senior director at Fitch Ratings, said the period of uncertainty has damaged investor, consumer, and depositor confidence and increased "the downside risks to growth and Greece's incipient economic recovery."

Repairing the damage done from the recent bout of brinkmanship "could take time," he added, noting the experience of 2012 when Greece was last near the Grexit door. Renwick said Fitch was likely to further reduce its 2015 growth forecast for Greece from the current 1.5 percent. □

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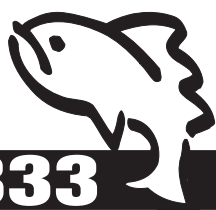


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ARUBA WINE & DINE

In shifting economy, shops aim to please in Pyongyang

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Workers in sharp new uniforms open the doors and turn on the lights about an hour before sunrise at their chain store on the corner of one of Pyongyang's main streets, right smack in the middle of a showpiece area of the capital.

But unlike much of the neighborhood around it, this shop isn't a showpiece. It hasn't been profiled by the state media or been paid any visits by the leader. It's a real business — and a quiet but telling example of an ongoing shift in the North Korean economy as officials play catch-up with grassroots entrepreneurship that has been building for nearly two decades.

Business with a hint of capitalism isn't new in North Korea — it's how the common people have survived amid the breakdown in the government's ability to provide for them following the devastating famine

and economic collapse of the 1990s. What's new is that, in a very real nod to the marketplace, this chain



In this image taken from video, a woman shops at the Changjon Street branch of the Hwanggumbol shop in Pyongyang, North Korea. The new state-owned chain stores are open from 6:00 a.m. to midnight, a novelty in North Korea. They aim to provide a wide range of goods, with a stable supply, reasonable prices and reliable quality.

(AP Photo/APTN)

of state-owned stores is now fine-tuning their business strategy to actually give consumers what they need.

And their managers have no qualms about saying so. The new chain stores —

called Hwanggumbol, or "golden fields" — are open from 6:00 a.m. to midnight, unusually long hours in

North Korea. They aim to provide a wide range of goods, with a stable supply, reasonable prices and reliable quality — none of which is taken for granted, even in the relative prosperity of Pyongyang.

"We thought that if we're selling the things that people need in everyday life, and our opening hours are longer than other shops, our prices are reasonable and we provide guaranteed quality, then people would like it," director Ryang Sung Jin recently said in an interview with AP Television News. "That's why we started this business."

From the street there isn't much to see, just a little sign with the chain's name and an electronic tickertape display flickering above the doorway. Inside, women wearing light blue jackets and black trousers greet customers and take orders — as is typical in North Korea, you choose the item you want in one place, pay for it in another and then go retrieve it with the receipt.

The shops serve a comparatively privileged demographic in North Korea; outside the capital, life is much harder and goods

more scarce. But they are also the result of broader policy changes cautiously rolled out since 2012, shortly after leader Kim Jong Un assumed power with promises to boost the nation's living standards.

Officially, there has been no economic reform. The avowedly socialist North Korean government calls the changes "our-style economic management methods."

North Korea's stance of developing the economy in tandem with pouring resources into the defense sector — including nuclear weapons — ensures the continuation of sanctions that curtail international investment.

But conversations with North Korean economists over the past five years show a gradual warming of attitudes and policies toward business.

Operating like a typical for-profit business still remains a challenge. □

China plays down terror legislation concerns

ERIKA KINETZ
Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — China played down U.S. concerns that proposed anti-terror legislation would give the Chinese government sweeping power to police electronic communications and marginalize foreign companies fighting for a share of China's \$465 billion technology market, saying Tuesday that the law is purely designed to address domestic security issues.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the law is necessary to fight terrorism, and that China hopes "the United States will regard this in a calm and objec-

tive way."

Four U.S. Cabinet members, including Secretary of State John Kerry, and the U.S. trade representative wrote their Chinese counterparts in February, expressing "serious concerns" about the draft anti-terror law and rules for technology procurement at Chinese banks, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. It is unusual to have four Cabinet officials weigh in on a China trade issue and underscores the seriousness of the concern in Washington, he said.

China's moves to strengthen cybersecurity

come in the wake of revelations of widespread U.S. government surveillance, and have raised questions about the extent to which government surveillance will interfere with the ability of private companies to effectively globalize.

Some say China is seeking to go no farther than the U.S. in the name of national security. "We just did what the Americans have already done," said Shen Dingli, director of Fudan University's Center for American Studies. "You could choose to leave, leaving the opportunity of making money from 1.3 billion people. We have substitutes." □

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Haitians' 'Brazilian dream' sours as work hard to find

A. GOMEZ LICON

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Under

a scorching sun, dozens of Haitians shuffled impatiently about the brick-walled courtyard of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. The sight of an approaching employer sparked a skirmish, with the men pushing against each other, jostling for attention.

"How many people you need?" several men shouted. "I need a job, what do you want me to do?" No matter what the job was, someone in the crowd yelled out, "I can do that!"

There are fewer jobs in Brazil than there are Haitians looking for work. An open-door policy intended to help migrants from the impoverished island is fueling Brazil's largest immigration wave since World War II and prompting calls for lawmakers to do more to help the new arrivals.

"Seeing so many seeking jobs and so much hunger for work, it creates tension," said the Rev. Paolo Parise, a priest who directs the parish's efforts to help Haitian migrants and other impoverished newcomers.

While Haiti is picking itself up from the 7.0 earthquake that devastated its capital in 2010, progress has not been enough to keep tens of thousands of Haitians from chasing opportunities abroad, mainly in the United States and the Dominican Republic. But Brazil also has become an attractive landing spot for migrants eager to find a foothold in Latin America's biggest economy.

Brazil has no limit on the number of humanitarian visas it issues to Haitians. National Migration Council figures suggest more than 52,000 Haitians have

migrated since 2012 and have become the country's largest group of foreign laborers, outpacing Portuguese who long held the top spot.

"No other country opened the doors for them like Brazil," said Duval Magalhaes, a demographer at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais state

factories, but the salaries barely cover Brazil's high cost of living, let alone leave Haitians enough money to support family back home. Employers know Haitians are desperate, and commonly pay them \$300 to \$400 a month, barely above the legal minimum.

"If they know you are an

on sporadic and meager incomes, most crowd into shared rooms amid the poorest slums ringing cities such as Sao Paulo.

Brazil has gone through a construction boom, both due to an economic expansion that lifted tens of millions out of poverty and because of public works projects tied to last year's



Haitian migrants wait to find a place to sleep and employment outside Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church which helps recently arrived migrants in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Trying to survive on sporadic and meager incomes, most Haitian migrants crowd into shared rooms amid the poorest slums ringing cities such as Sao Paulo.
(AP Photo/Andre Penner)

who has researched the Haitian migration in Brazil. Wooldeens Turenne, 23, once earned a reliable income guiding missionary workers helping quake victims in Haiti. But such work gradually dried up and, last year, Turenne saw it was time to leave. Despite being fluent in English, going to the United States wasn't an option due to its restrictive immigration laws. Instead, he flew to Panama, then Ecuador, where he received his visa to enter Brazil. He then flew to Sao Paulo.

Jobs can be found in construction, agriculture and

immigrant, they don't pay you the salary they are supposed to, and they will give you a lot of work to do," Turenne said. "It's better than Haiti, yes, but it's not possible to make a good living."

Two out of three companies interested in hiring migrants through Parise's church are turned away because they don't want to comply with labor laws, or their work sites don't meet safety standards.

Migrant advocates say the Haitians also face racial discrimination, and many struggle to understand Portuguese. Trying to survive

World Cup and next year's Olympics. But the economy is now sluggish, contracting the first half of 2014 and barely moving as the year closed. That hasn't stemmed the flow of Haitians. Migrant advocates are urging the government to do more, such as allowing those who arrive without visas to apply for them in Brazil, a step that would circumvent a cumbersome process in which they first must seek refugee status. They also complain Brazil needs to provide more shelters for new arrivals and do more to integrate them into society. □

Aristide's former security chief shot to death in Haiti

EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) —

The chief of presidential security under former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was shot to death Monday in the capital, where he had lived since returning to the country after finishing a prison sentence in the United States.

Oriel Jean, who had received a reduced sentence because he provided substantial assistance to U.S. authorities investigating allegations of drug trafficking tied to the Aristide government, was killed in an apparent ambush in the Delmas district of Port-au-Prince, police said.

National Police spokesman Gary Desrosiers said two men on a motorcycle came up to Jean and one opened fire before they fled into the crowded streets. The former official was struck in the neck and stomach. No suspects were in custody.

After the attack, as officials tried to collect evidence and witness testimony, Jean's body was sprawled on the street as if he had been shot just as he stepped out of the vehicle, a grey Toyota SUV with tinted windows. The street, in a busy commercial and residential district, was packed with people heading home in the late afternoon.

Jean, who was about 50, had returned to Haiti after completing a sentence in the U.S. for money laundering.

From 2001 to 2003, he had been the head of security for Aristide, who was forced from power in a violent rebellion in February 2004. □



For Team Aruba:

Impressive 2000 Hp To Start The Race Season

ORANJESTAD - After racing 1/8 of a mile for many years IHRA has brought Pro Stock back on 12 tracks throughout the United States and Canada.

Team Aruba has made good use of the wintertime to upgrade the 2011 Ford Mustang for the upcoming IHRA race season, with a John Kaase 830 CID motor, producing 2000 horsepower.

Team Aruba will travel to SC this week to load up the racecar and equipment to head out to Port Allen, Louisiana. On the way to Louisiana Team Aruba will do some test runs on a neighboring track. The last time TEAM ARUBA's driver, Trevor, was on a 1/4-mile track he performed well with a 6.16 ET.

With all the upgrades,

weather permitting, Team Aruba should be performing well.

The race itself will be an extension of Mardi Gras, a celebration similar to Aruba's Carnival. On Thursday night, March 12th, there will be a big celebration with street bands parading through the pit area, with creole food stands.

Whoever wants to participate in the parades receives free masks, hats, bead necklaces, and all other types of Carnival (Mardi Gras) material sponsored by the State of Louisiana and IGRA.

Team Aruba will make use of this activity as an early National Anthem and Flag Day Celebration.

At Team Aruba's pit the display table will be laid out to give away promotional



material as well as the popular Aruba Ariba beverage. For this even Team Aruba will be short of promotional

material. Whoever has 'ARUBA' promotional material and would be willing to donate this for the event

in Louisiana may contact Team Aruba at 582-9085 and we will be happy to pick these up. ☐



RAGE Silver Boutique Opens New Location at Royal Plaza Mall!



ORANJESTAD - RAGE Silver Boutique opened their first location in 1998 and has expanded now to three stores; Renaissance Marketplace and Royal Plaza Mall in downtown and Palm Beach Plaza Mall at the high rise hotels area. They are known for their

great extensive selection of sterling silver jewelry from all over the world, of which most pieces are hand selected by the owner herself, Marny. During the recent Grand Opening of their 3rd location at the Royal Plaza Mall, they introduced the 'Shop

in Shop' of the brand Uno de 50 from Spain. Silver plated jewelry with leather, Swarovski crystals or men made stones. Originally they only made 50 pieces per item, which is why the name "Uno de 50" meaning "one of 50". But now that the line is expanding tremendously all over the world, of course this is no longer the case.

They are opening stores and Shop in shops in Europe, Asia, US and now also in the Caribbean. Each piece is handcrafted and has a name or saying that goes with it. This is a must see collection.

They carry Silver designer lines like Tisento, Chamilla, Crislu, Rebecca and many more.....But also gold plated jewelry to cater to those gold lovers. Gold plated over silver with CZ; rings, necklaces bracelets and a big variety of earrings. These items are great for all ages and also great as gifts. Also added to their collection at this new store is Melinda Maria. A gold plated line from LA of statement pieces with CZ and



semi-precious stones. Marny travels all over the world to look for new trends and collections to keep her customers intrigued and excited. For those who want a more complete look, you can also find handbags by GIGI New York, all made of high quality leather. Sunglasses by Guess and watches from Vince Camuto. Not to forget, nice plain silver pieces with or without

stones and trendy Stainless steel jewelry for woman and men.

They invite you to come and see what they, Marny and her husband, have designed and created over the years. All stores carry different collections so make sure you pass by at least two of their stores. As they also carry more watch brands like Guess, GC, Fossil, Storm and Nautica. Jew-



elry from a local designer from Curacao BECK gold filled and/or plated with Swarovski crystals and semi-precious stones. Guess jewelry and Buddha to Buddha by a Dutch designer all handmade in Indonesia. Murano glass pieces by Millefiore, all made in Italy and just much more. A friendly staff awaits you

to help you pick the perfect Jewelry piece to bring back home and remember Aruba by!

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Sidebar changes Aruba's restaurant scene with its flavorful gourmet burgers

ORANJESTAD - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

"After two meals and one take out experience, I'm ready to COMMIT. This hip, casual place manages to pull off a great contribution to the latest fad....burgers."

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TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste— try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

Loyal Visitors Honored at the Marriott Ocean Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two loyal and friendly guests at the Marriott Ocean Club as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as tokens of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Robert



and Mrs. Theresa Perone from North Carolina. Robert and Theresa are loyal guests of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the

climate, beaches, restaurants, Casinos and Aruba feels like a second home. The people are like a family to them and the Marriott Ocean Club is their home away from home. The cer-

tificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Stephanie, Lillian and the GM Erwin Noguera from Marriott Ocean Club. □



Enjoy the Ride

This weekly ride is from Mr. Matheo Lampe which is a Mercury Montego MX from 1968. Matheo has this vehicle for about 8 years now, but the work started around 2012 to 2013. Bodywork was done by Matheo himself and Bryan Maduro as time allowed them. Matheo's son Kelvin did the fine interior work and upholstery. Engine work was done by Burty. The Mercury power plant is a Ford v8 302 with a Holley 600 cfm carb on it and a NOS wet nitrous system installed with a MSD ignition to spark all that fuel. The C4 transmission via Ford 9 inch rear end

and the aluminum Torque Thrust II wheels fitted with Nitto Extreme drag tires puts all the power on the pavement when needed. The interior is fully equipped with a pioneer sound system and Boss amplifiers, a Le Carra steering wheel and Automotive gauges makes it complete. On the exterior we can appreciate the nice silver and blue two tone paintjob done by Shalexxy. Time and dedication went thru this build for sure as we all can see.





Story & pictures by: Alberto Arrindell



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BASARI ARUBA

Manchebo Resort promotes Ever de Peña to Executive Chef

EAGLE BEACH - Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, an intimate 4-star boutique resort on Eagle Beach - Aruba is delighted to announce the promotion of Ever de Peña to the position of Executive Chef of the resort. In his former role as resort sous-chef and chef of the successful Ike's Bistro restaurant he is now ready to incorporate his creativity and ingenuity into the other restaurant concepts of the resort as well including the French Steakhouse, the Pega-Pega Beach Bar & Grill and the resort's banqueting department.

The resort's General Manager Edgar Roelofs said "Chef Ever has been an invaluable part of the dining experience at the resort over the past four years. When staying at our intimate 4-star resort our guests have the highest expectations when it comes to the culinary part of their vacation experience. Chef Ever has been phenomenal as he has lead his team to culinary heights with the introduction of the Mediterranean & Caribbean fusion cuisine at Ike's Bistro including savory 4-course tasting menus".

Venezuela-born Ever de Peña grew up in Aruba, studied at EPI's Hospitality & Tourism section and finalized his AI-program in 2010. A chef at Manchebo since 2011, he was responsible for the transformation of former Italian restaurant Giorgio's into Ike's Bistro, which opened in November 2012. □





In this Feb. 10, 2015, file photo, Denver Nuggets' Brian Shaw watches the action during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers in Los Angeles.

Denver Nuggets fire coach Brian Shaw with team in slide

By PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) -- Last week, Denver Nuggets players broke huddle with a chant of "1-2-3 ... Six weeks," interpreted by some as a countdown to the end of a season gone sour.

Brian Shaw didn't even make it that far. The first-time head coach was fired after 1 1/2 seasons on Tuesday, with the team at 20-39 and on a six-game losing streak. Assistant coach Melvin Hunt will be the interim coach.

The timing of the dismissal was somewhat surprising given that just last week general manager Tim Connolly seemed to signal Shaw's job was safe at least through the end of the season. It also happened hours before tipoff against Milwaukee.

Bucks coach Jason Kidd said he had dinner with Shaw the night before and that Shaw didn't appear to have any sort of inkling his firing was imminent.

Continued on page 19



BOSTON MARKET

Bruins get Connolly from Lightning

In this Jan. 6, 2015, file photo, Tampa Bay Lightning's Brett Connolly celebrates his goal against the Montreal Canadiens during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Montreal.
Associated Press
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NBA Capsules

Dragic scores 21, Heat beat Suns 115-98 as tensions run high

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP)—Tyler Johnson scored a career-high 26 points and Goran Dragic added 21 against his former team as the Miami Heat beat the Phoenix Suns 115-98 on Monday night in a game that included two third-quarter altercations. Hassan Whiteside finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds before getting ejected for Miami, which got 16 points and nine assists from Dwyane Wade. P.J. Tucker had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns, who also got 20 points from Eric Bledsoe. Markieff Morris and Brandon Knight scored 13 apiece.

The story line was supposed



a final shot off after Jack's jumper.

Curry finished with 26 points, 18 in the final period. Jack, however, calmly ran the clock down and shot over him as the Nets won their first game at home since Feb. 6.

Brook Lopez had 26 points and Deron Williams 22 for the Nets.

Andrew Bogut scored 16 for Golden State, but Klay Thompson shot 3 for 17. He was 1 of 9 on 3-pointers and finished with seven points.

Alan Anderson scored 16 for the Nets, who had played eight in a row on the road since beating New York at Barclays Center on Feb. 6, a 24-day stretch between home games that ranked as the longest in franchise history. Now the Warriors can't wait to get home, ending their six-game trip and a stretch of 10 road games out of 11.

CLIPPERS 110, **TIMBERWOLVES** 105
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Chris Paul had 26 points and 14 assists as Los Angeles allowed only one field goal in the fourth quarter to outlast Minnesota.

J.J. Redick scored 18 points before getting ejected in the fourth and DeAndre Jordan had 12 points and 18 rebounds, his ninth straight game with at least 15 boards. Glen Davis scored 12 points off the bench to help the Clippers get their seventh win in nine games.

Ricky Rubio had 18 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for the Timberwolves, who were missing starters Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin. Minnesota went 1 for 14 in the fourth quarter. □

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DENVER NUGGET

Continued from page 17

"This wasn't anything, I don't think, he saw coming," Kidd said after his team's morning practice. "It's unfortunate what happened with B-Shaw, being one of my mentors as a player and also a good friend."

Shaw went 56-85 for a .397 winning percentage. The Nuggets have lost 10 consecutive games at home, one shy of tying the franchise record set in 1997-98. The team has also nose-dived since the All-Star break, going 0-6, and attendance has suffered.

Players wouldn't comment on Shaw's firing as they left the Pepsi Center after a meeting Tuesday morning before their game.

"You won't find a better guy than Brian, and he is one of the brightest basketball minds I've ever been around," Connelly said in a statement Tuesday. "Unfortunately things didn't go as we hoped, but we know

with his basketball acumen that he has a very bright future ahead of him."

Nuggets President Josh Kroenke said the team will look for a permanent coach after the season.

"This has been a trying season for all of us," Kroenke said in a statement. "And we appreciate Nuggets fans continued faith and patience as we build our proud organization back to the NBA's elite."

Shaw replaced George Karl, who was ousted after Denver won a franchise-record 57 games in 2012-13 only to be bounced from the first round of the playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.

The first season as an NBA head coach for Shaw was marked by injuries and a dispute with point guard Andre Miller, who was eventually traded to Washington. The Nuggets went 36-46, missing the playoffs for the first time since 2002-03. The Nuggets returned to health this season, but failed to live up to expectations.

The affable Shaw was seemingly on the hot seat in November after Portland torched the Nuggets for 84 points in the first half. It was the most points scored in the first half by a Denver opponent since Phoenix scored an NBA-record 107 points on Nov. 10, 1990.

Things began to settle down, though, and the Nuggets went on a five-game win streak. Later, Shaw even eliminated morning shoot-arounds on game days to give his players more time to rest.

In January, Ty Lawson was arrested for investigation of driving under the influence. A month later, the speedy point guard skipped the first practice after the All-Star break when he missed his flight back from Las Vegas. That didn't sit well with Shaw, who kept Lawson out for a game.

Last Friday against Utah, Nuggets players uttered the "1-2-3. ... Six weeks" chant when Shaw wasn't around. Shaw told The Denver Post and other outlets Monday the chant



Newly named Denver Nuggets interim coach Melvin Hunt talks to reporters in his first news conference, before the Nuggets' NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, in Denver.

Associated Press

"all stemmed from me saying that we hadn't won a game in six weeks on our home floor. So I just want to set the record straight in terms of that. That's the real truth behind what's taken off and put us all in a bad light." After winning three titles with the Los Angeles Lakers during his playing career, Shaw won two more as an assistant under Phil Jackson before becoming associate head coach of the Indiana Pacers. He interviewed for a

dozen head coaching positions before Kroenke hired him on June 25, 2013.

Kroenke called Shaw a "champion and a gentleman." He noted that since the Kroenke family purchased the franchise in 2000 "we have constantly strived to field a competitive team." In noting the 10 consecutive playoff appearances and 57-win season in 2012-13, he said: "Expectations have been raised and we want more." □

NHL Capsules

Sharks snap 8-game home skid with 4-0 win

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— Ben Smith scored just hours after being acquired by San Jose in a deadline deal as the Sharks shut out Montreal for the third straight meeting in a 4-0 win over the Canadiens on Monday.

Joe Pavelski, Matt Irwin and Patrick Marleau also scored for the Sharks, who snapped an eight-game home losing streak by beating the top team in the Eastern Conference.

Alex Stalock made 20 saves for his fourth career shutout and first win since Jan. 6 at Minnesota. That performance followed Antti Niemi's two shutouts against the Canadiens last year, giving San Jose three straight shutouts against a single opponent for the second time in team history.

The Canadiens got off to



Chicago Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford (50) stops a shot by Carolina Hurricanes center Andrej Nestrasil (15) during the third period of an NHL hockey game on Monday, March 2, 2015, in Chicago. The Blackhawks won 5-2.

Associated Press

a bad start on their four-game West Coast trip as they were outplayed from the start against San Jose. Carey Price made 33 saves and snapped his franchise record 10-game road winning streak.

BLACKHAWKS 5, HURRICANES 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Toews had two goals and assisted on Marian Hossa's score as Chicago rolled to its third win in four

games.

Brandon Saad scored his 20th to reach that mark for the first time in his career and Marcus Kruger also connected for the Blackhawks. Toews increased his total to 21 goals. Corey Crawford made 27 saves for Chicago and lost his bid for a second straight shutout when Carolina's John-Michael Liles scored at 4:29 of the third period. Alexander Semin also scored late in the third for the Hurricanes, who snapped a three-game winning streak.

Cam Ward allowed four goals on 18 shots through the first two periods for Carolina, and was replaced by Anton Khudobin to start the third. Khudobin stopped

seven of the eight shots he faced.

RANGERS 4, PREDATORS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Mats Zuccarello and Derick Brassard both had two assists as the New York Rangers rebounded from a rare regulation loss and sent the NHL-leading Nashville Predators to their season-worst third straight defeat. Marc Staal, Chris Kreider, Dominic Moore and Rick Nash had goals for the Rangers to make it a successful debut for defenseman Keith Yandle, acquired Sunday from Arizona. Cam Talbot stopped 25 shots in place of injured No. 1 goalie Henrik Lundqvist, who turned 33 on Monday. The Rangers moved into a tie with the Islanders atop the Metropolitan Division. Zuccarello had a big game shortly after the Rangers announced he agreed to a four-year contract extension. □

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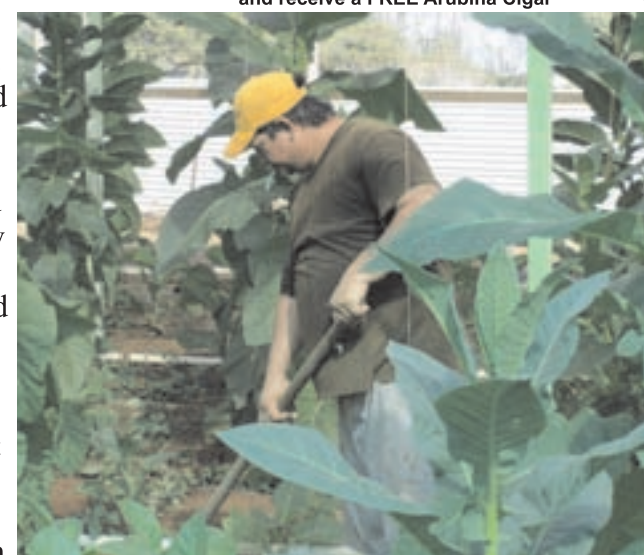


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Rangers' rivals counter by stocking up at NHL trade deadline

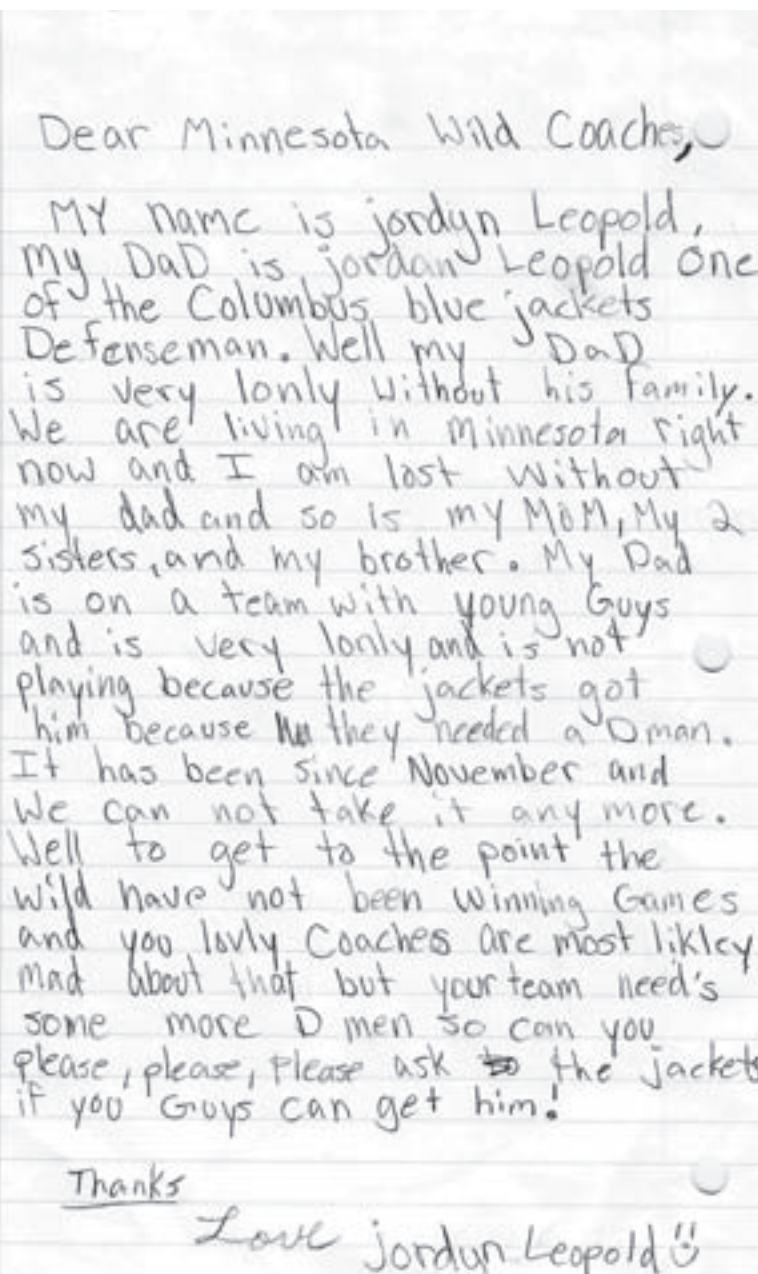
JOHN WAWROW
AP Hockey Writer

New York Rangers general manager Glen Sather struck the first bold move of the weekend by acquiring play-making defenseman Keith Yandle in a trade with the Arizona Coyotes. By the time NHL trade deadline struck a day later on Monday, many of Sather's Eastern Conference-countering counterparts responded with a series of moves to address their needs.

"Anybody got a crystal ball around?" Sather asked, in response to whether he was prepared to predict the Rangers' chances of reaching the Stanley Cup final for a second consecutive year. "It was nice to get there. And I hope we can do that again."

But, Sather added, "there are a lot of teams that are going to think the same thing we're thinking now." On a day that featured 24 trades involving 43 players, the Montreal Canadiens countered by acquiring Edmonton defenseman Jeff Petry and Buffalo forwards Brian Flynn and Torrey Mitchell. Pittsburgh stocked up on veteran defense with Ian Cole and Ben Lovejoy. Boston shook up a sputtering team with forwards Brett Connolly and Max Talbot.

The New York Islanders acquired Tyler Kennedy from San Jose, and shored up their goaltending depth



This Jan. 22, 2015, photo provided by Jamie Leopold shows a letter written by Jordyn Leopold urging the Minnesota Wild coaching staff to make a trade for her father Jordan Leopold.

Associated Press

behind Jaroslav Halak by landing Sabres starter Michal Neuvirth. And Detroit entered the trading mix. A day after acquiring Erik Cole from Dallas, the Red Wings added Devils defenseman Marek Zidlicky.

"The growth of our team and the growth of our younger players, I guess, sent a message to me that we've got a good team," Red Wings GM Ken Holland said. It was no different in the West, where Anaheim, St. Louis and Minnesota each made several trades

to counter moves other contenders made last month. Anaheim acquired defensemen James Wisniewski, Simon Despres and Korbinian Holzer and center Michael Sgarbossa in four separate deadline deals Monday. "Hopefully we're capable now to compete against most of the teams in our conference," GM Bob Murray said despite his team holding a 12-point edge atop the Pacific Division. The Blues made three trades to acquire defensemen Robert Bortuzzo and

Zbynek Michalek, and forward Olli Jokinen.

Minnesota, clinging to the West's second wild-card

spot, added veteran defenseman Jordan Leopold and two-way forward Chris Stewart. □



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FRI 4:00 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40
SAT 3:50 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:00 | 8:20

MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

ON TWO SCREENS



OLIVIA WILDE | EVAN PETERS

THE LAZARUS EFFECT

MON-THURS 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35
FRI 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SAT SAT 3:35 | 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 3:35 | 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35



COLIN FIRTH | TARON EGERTON

Kingsman THE SECRET SERVICE

MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20



DAKOTA JOHNSON | JAMIE DORNAN

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY

MON-THURS 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
FRI 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
SAT SAT 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25



ANTONIO BANDERAS | TOM KENNY

THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE SPONGE OUT OF WATER

3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35 | 10:45
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35

2D VERSION
MON-FRI 5:00 | 7:05
SAT 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05
SUN & HOL 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05



KEVIN HART | JOSH GAD

JUPITER ASCENDING

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 9:10
FRI 9:10 | 12:00
SAT 9:10 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 9:10

the Wedding Ringer

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

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Fasting, Religious Wisdom

Religious dietary recommendations, sometimes prohibitions, like folk sayings and remedies have an uncanny insight into the human condition. As a clinical nutritionist, I enjoy trying to unravel the basis for these laws. Likewise, I am interested in traditional methods of cooking foods. Why do spinach and potatoes or cloves and ham seem to go so naturally together? Spinach, a great natural source of iron, contains oxalic acid which can raise uric acid and aggravate a gout attack. However, cooked and eaten with potatoes, the alkalizing quality of potatoes reduces inflammation and prevents a uric acid reaction. Meanwhile, everyone knows that pork has to be cooked well because these animals may more easily become infected with bacteria and parasites. Cloves, used traditional pork recipes, have natural oils that kill bacteria and parasites. Interestingly, reflecting the dietary prohibitions of the Old Testament, medically, we have found pork to be detrimental to all metabolic blood types.

Spring reminds me that every major world religion and many indigenous belief systems incorporate fasting at this time. "Fasting" means abstaining from food or some types of food. The idea of the fasting in spring has been fixed firmly in all religious disciplines as

a mechanism to purify oneself and become more receptive to their deity's message. The Christian Bible has thirty three passages about fasting during what they call the Lenten season. Pope John Paul II stated that Penitential fasting is therapy for the soul. In fact, for Catholics all days of Lent are supposed to be fasting days. Muslims throughout the world will be fasting during the sacred month of Ramadan. The Jewish fast of the firstborn takes place in the spring, during Passover.

As a natural physician I am aware that beyond religious faith, fasting is an ancient healing strategy. Many traditional cultures, including Oriental, East Indian, and Native American, have long regarded short periods of abstaining from food as curative and revitalizing. Hippocrates prescribed fasting. Fasting was practiced by Plato, Socrates and Mahatma Gandhi. In modern Europe, clinics that support therapeutic fasting are quite common. In Sweden it's practically a national sport.

Proponents of fasting offer thousands of testimonials from recovered asthmatics, arthritics, insomniacs, ex-sufferers of migraines, skin, digestive disorders, and other ailments. They maintain that with the exception of serious conditions like tuberculosis, ulcers, diabetes, hypoglycemia, blood, liver, kidney and

heart diseases- systematic voluntary abstention from eating is almost always a healthy first response to illness. One of my medical heroes whose influence prompted me to become a colon hydrotherapist, Dr. Bernard Jensen, has supervised over 50,000 fasts at his center in Escondido, CA.

There are two kinds of fasting. The "water fast" induces rapid internal purification, but shocks the system. Dr. Rudolph Ballentine, MD., author of "Diet & Nutrition - A Holistic Approach," says that the average American lacks the proper reserve nutrients necessary for healthy water fast. Dr. Ballentine recommends a supervised, gradual "juice fast" using natural vegetable and fruit juices to provide essential vitamins to sustain metabolism, and minerals which neutralize and removed toxins that are released.

Although abstaining from food is often not as difficult as you may imagine, it is useful to plan ahead. Having medical supervision is the safest way to start your fast. Fasting is not recommended at times of high stress. During the first two days, when you may feel weak and out of sorts, it's nice to be able to be with supportive loved ones, and to rest when you feel like it. Acupuncture works very well to support you through this "rough" period.

One should begin to reduce portion amounts

and eat lighter foods several days before all solid food is eliminated. While fasting, be sure to drink enough water to internally wash the system. Enough is: 1 qt/ 90 lbs of body weight (1 lt./each 30kg). Colonic irrigation not only augments the cleansing process, it also helps to hydrate the body.

At Viana Healing Center we routinely supervise patients through a fast where, besides water, only brown rice is eaten for two weeks. Eating no proteins or fats, your body will begin to quickly break down its own excess deposits. This not only helps with weight loss, but we've seen it drastically improve skin, allergies, colon and other problems. The duration of a fast depends on one's medical condition, body weight, lifestyle and other individual factors. In many of our supervised patients, we combine the brown rice fast with periods of taking light, natural foods, almost exclusively vegetables.

If you are one of the people on the list above, not healthy enough to completely fast, but would like to eliminate or reduce certain food for religious or health reasons, be sure to be checked by a professional. Consult with a clinical nutritionist to help you make the right food choices in the safest way. Sometimes, eliminating red meat, dairy and/or gluten containing products like wheat, can



By Carlos M. Viana

drastically improve your health. Adding dietary supplements might be recommended. Always read labels to make sure your vitamins are free from artificial or unwanted ingredients like sugar and starch fillers. Get the Point! As a student of ecclesiastical discipline I see that the religious obligation of fasting is rarely observed in its integrity nowadays. What a pity, fasting brings into harmony our mind, soul and body. Fasting and abstaining from excessive food results in the lightening of the capabilities of the mind and the soul. Come in so we can help you plan and safely supervise your spring (cleaning) fast.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lecture extensively. □

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Google selling wireless plans to get more people online

JOSEPH WILSON
MICHAEL LIETKE
Associated Press
BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Search giant, self-driving car developer, smart-phone and tablet maker. Turned data plan provider?

Google wants more people to get online so they can search around and click on its ads. And it's shaking up the telecom world to do it. The company said Monday at the wireless show in Barcelona, Spain, that it will soon sell data plans for smartphones and tablets in the U.S. The announcement confirmed leaks and media reports in late January that Google planned to enter the telecom market.

More information will be released "in the coming months," Sundar Pichai, Google Inc.'s senior vice president of products, said during his presentation.

The move into the wireless market mirrors what Google has been trying to do for hard-wired Internet access at home. The Mountain View, California, company currently sells an ultra-fast fiber-optic Internet service in a handful of markets scattered across the U.S. in an attempt to pressure long-established broadband providers to improve their prices and cut their prices.

Google conceivably do something similar for wireless by offering discounted data plans that would pressure major carriers such as AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications to offer better deals and services or risk losing customers to a

powerful rival.

"Any time there is a new entrant with the resources and imagination of Google, it most definitely could shake up the market," said Gartner analyst Bill Menezes.

Pichai downplayed the competitive threat that Google might pose.

"We don't intend to be a network operator at scale," he said. "Our goal here is to drive a set of innovations which we think the ecosystem should evolve and hopefully will get traction." Pichai compared Google's latest move to its decision to launch its own line of Nexus smartphones, which he said Google uses not to compete with other smartphone makers, but to introduce innovations in mobile hardware.

Finding a way to provide a "seamless" Internet connection when a device moves from Wi-Fi to cellular coverage as one example of goals Google would like to target, Pichai said. He

also noted that Google is also working on "Android Pay," a mobile payment system similar to "Apple Pay," that will work across all Android-powered devices.

Google plans to be a "mobile virtual network operator," which means it will lease space on an existing system. Pichai didn't name Google's wireless partners, but previous media reports have identified Sprint Corp. and T-Mobile US Inc. Neither of those carriers has confirmed those plans yet. Selling Google access to their wireless networks would help Sprint and T-Mobile recoup some of their extensive investments. If Google's entry into the wireless market is successful, the company may even try to take over Sprint or T-Mobile, Menezes said. "This could end up being a 'try it and then buy it' strategy," he said.

T-Mobile already has been lowering its prices and rolling out other wireless plans



Sundar Pichai, senior vice president of Android, Chrome and Apps, talks during a conference during the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, March 2, 2015.

Associated Press

that have undercut the status quo. Some of those changes have prodded AT&T and Verizon to take steps that have helped their existing customers save money. Google is constantly looking for ways to get more people online in an effort to drive more traffic to its Internet-leading search engine, Gmail

and YouTube video site. All those services display the ads that generate most of Google's revenue. Google also collects commissions on millions of ads distributed to other sites. The company is using solar-powered drones and a fleet of high-altitude balloons to beam Internet service in some parts of the world. □

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Best Buy hikes shareholder dividend, offers one-time payment

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP)

— Best Buy Co. raised its quarterly dividend 21 percent and plans to give shareholders an additional one-time payment after the nation's largest electronics chain reported a better-than-expected fourth-quarter profit.

The Minneapolis-based company said it will raise its cash dividend to 23 cents

per share from 19 cents, and it will pay shareholders a one-time dividend of 51 cents per share culled from the proceeds of some legal settlements over the price of liquid crystal displays, or LCDs, sold in the United States.

The settlements stem from litigation against technology makers over claims that they conspired to fix LCD prices. LCD technol-

ogy is used in items like flat-panel TVs, computers and phones. Best Buy will pay the special cash dividend and the increased regular quarterly payout on April 14 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 24. Under CEO Hubert Joly, who took the helm in 2012, the Richfield, Minnesota-based Best Buy has been cutting costs and revamping stores to

improve results as it faces competition from online retailers and discount stores. It's been also rolling out services like shipping goods from all its stores, which means speedier deliveries. It's been working with big suppliers like Samsung to develop home theater areas for shoppers to check out. It's also increased its online sales to 9.8 percent its total from 7 percent two

years ago. The moves have helped improve profit margins and drive sales. Best Buy is planning a number of initiatives for the current year. It aims to focus on improving merchandise and just launched a wedding registry on its website. But the company is still facing falling prices for popular items like TVs and weaker demand for products like tablets and computers. □

US stocks slip day after Nasdaq passes 5,000 mark

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks fell from record highs on Tuesday and the Nasdaq dropped below 5,000 a day after passing that milestone for the first time since the dot-com era 15 years ago.

The losses were modest but broad, with eight industry sectors in the Standard and Poor's 500 index falling. Higher oil prices helped oil drillers and other energy companies buck the trend. They eked out a 0.2 percent rise for the day. With no major economic news and few earnings reports, investors were at pains to point to a catalyst for the stock slump other than jitters that sometime follow big gains.

"It's only natural we would get a little flutter after a milestone like yesterday," said Wells Fargo Funds' Chief Equity Strategist John Manley, referring to the Nasdaq closing above 5,000. "It may very well go on for a few days."

The Dow Jones industrial



People walk past the Nasdaq Marketsite in New York's Times Square on Tuesday, March 3, 2015. The Nasdaq fell below 5,000 a day after passing that milestone for the first time since the dot-com era 15 years ago. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

average fell 85.26 points, or 0.5 percent, to 18,203.37. The Standard & Poor's 500 declined 9.61 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,107.78. The Nasdaq gave up 28.20

points, or 0.6 percent, to close at 4,979.90.

Ford Motor slumped after reporting U.S. sales from last month that disappointed investors. Ford sales

fell 1.9 percent as dealers lacked the inventory to meet demand for the new F-150 pickup truck. Ford dropped 40 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$16.17.

Oil rose on reports that Saudi Arabia raised prices for Asian customers and fears of heightening tensions with Iran after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed Congress. Several oil drillers surged. Denbury Resources, an oil and gas producer, jumped 28 cents, or 3.4 percent, to \$8.58.

With nearly all companies in the S&P 500 having reported their fourth-quarter results, earnings per share for companies in the S&P 500 index are expected to have risen a healthy 7.7 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Liquor giant Brown-Forman reports earnings on Wednesday, followed by Costco Wholesale on Thursday. Staples, the nation's biggest office supply chain, reports on Friday.

Financial analysts expect earnings to drop com-

pared with the year-earlier periods for the next two quarters, but that is mostly because of a drag from energy companies as oil prices have fallen more than 50 percent since last June.

Anastasia Amoroso, global market strategist for J.P. Morgan Asset Management, said she wasn't surprised by the pullback.

"We're seeing a market that is fairly valued, earnings are behind us and no major catalysts are coming up," she said. "It's a market ready for a pause."

The slump in the U.S. followed losses in European markets. France's CAC 40 and Germany's DAX each lost 1 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 dropped 0.7 percent.

On Monday, the Nasdaq rose to just 40 points from its 5,048.62 peak reached March 10, 2000. The index has changed significantly since then. Gone is the heavy weighting of telecommunications stocks and big bets on Internet companies with little or no earnings. □

Springleaf buying OneMain Financial for \$4.25 billion

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) —

Personal finance company Springleaf Holdings is buying Citigroup's OneMain Financial for \$4.25 billion. OneMain Financial Holdings Inc. of Baltimore provides personal loans and has more than 1,100 neighborhood branches across 43 states. The Citigroup subsidiary, originally founded as Commercial Credit, has about 5,600 employees. It has acquired

companies such as The Associates and Washington Mutual Finance over the years.

"While this business didn't fit our strategy, it serves customers who deserve and need credit," Citi CEO Michael Corbat said in a printed statement.

Citi said that it will use part of the proceeds from the sale to retire certain funding that currently supports Citi Holdings. The sale,

along with retirement of the related funding, are expected to result in a net addition to earnings before income taxes of approximately \$1 billion.

Springleaf Holdings Inc. of Evansville, Indiana will consolidate approximately 200 branches beginning in the middle of next year. The combined company is expected to have 1,967 branches across 43 states. The Springleaf brand will

begin to be phased out in 2016 and use the name OneMain.

Springleaf CEO Jay Levine will lead the combined company.

The boards at Springleaf and Citigroup have approved the deal, which is expected to close in the third quarter.

Once the transaction is complete, the combined company will be run from Springleaf's executive of-

fice in Connecticut. It will maintain a significant presence in Evansville and Baltimore and run key operations out of Wilmington, Delaware; Chicago; London, Kentucky; Mendota Heights, Minnesota; Tempe, Arizona; Fort Mill, South Carolina; and Irving and Fort Worth, Texas.

Shares of Citigroup Inc. rose 56 cents to \$54.05 in premarket trading Tuesday. □

Converting the Ayatollahs



DAVID BROOKS
© 2015 New York Times

Over the past centuries, Western diplomats have continually projected pragmatism onto their ideological opponents. They have often assumed that our enemies are driven by the same sort of national interest calculations that motivate most regimes. They have assumed that economic interests would trump ideology and religion - that prudent calculation and statecraft would trump megalomania.

They assumed that the world leaders before 1914 would not be stupid enough to allow nationalist passion to plunge them into a World War; that Hitler would not be crazy enough to start a second one; that Islamic radicals could not really want to send their region back into the 12th century; that Sunnis and Shiites would never let their sectarian feud turn into a cataclysmic confrontation in places like Iraq.

The Obama administration is making a similar projection today. It is betting that Iran can turn into a fundamentally normal regime, which can be counted upon to put GDP over ideology and religion and do the pragmatic thing.

The Iran nuclear negotiations are not just about centrifuges; they are about the future of the Middle East. Through a series of statements over the last few years, President Barack Obama has made it reasonably clear how he envisions that future.

He seeks to wean Iran away from the radicalism of the revolution and bind it into the international economic and diplomatic system. By reaching an agreement on nukes and lifting the sanctions, Iran would re-emerge as America's natural partner in the region. It has an educated middle class that is interested in prosperity and is not terribly anti-American. Global integration would strengthen Iranian moderates and reinforce democratic tendencies.

Once enmeshed in the global system, Iran would work to tame Hezbollah and Hamas and would cooperate to find solutions in Gaza, Iraq and Syria. There would be a more stable balance of power between the major powers. In exchange for good global citizenship, Iran would be richer and more influential.

To pursue this détente, Obama has to have a nuclear agreement. He has made a series of stunning sacrifices in order to get it. In 2012, the president vowed that he would not permit Iran to maintain a nuclear program. Six

U.N. Security Council resolutions buttressed that principle. But, if reports of the proposed deal are correct, Obama has abandoned this policy.

Under the reported framework, Iran would have thousands of centrifuges. All restrictions on its nuclear program would be temporary and would be phased out over a decade or so. According to some reports, there will be no limits on Iran's ballistic missiles, no resolution of Iran's weaponizing activities. Monitoring and enforcement would rely on an inspection regime that has been good, but leaky. Meanwhile, the United States has offended its erstwhile allies, like Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, without being sure that Iran is really willing to supplement them. There is a chance that Iran's regional rivals would feel the need to have their own nuclear programs and we would descend into a spiral of proliferation.

All of this might be defensible if Iran is really willing to switch teams, if religion and ideology played no role in the regime's thinking. But it could be that Iran has been willing to be an international pariah for the past generation for a reason. It could be that Iran finances terrorist groups and destabilizes regimes like Yemen's and Morocco's for a reason. It could be that Iran's leaders really believe what they say. It could be that Iranian leaders are as apocalyptically motivated, paranoid and dogmatically anti-American as their pronouncements suggest they are. It could be that Iran will be as destabilizing and hegemonically inclined as all its recent actions suggest. Iran may be especially radical if the whole region gets further inflamed by Sunni-Shia rivalry or descends into greater and greater Islamic State-style fanaticism.

Do we really want a nuclear-capable Iran in the midst of all that?

If the Iranian leaders believe what they say, then U.S. policy should be exactly the opposite of the one now being pursued. Instead of embracing and enriching Iran, sanctions should be toughened to further isolate and weaken it. Instead of accepting a nuclear capacity, eliminating that capacity should be restored as the centerpiece of U.S. policy. Instead of a condominium with Iran that offends traditional allies like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel, the U.S. should build a regional strategy around strengthening relations with those historic pillars.

It's hard to know what's going on in the souls of Iran's leadership class, but a giant bet is being placed on one interpretation. March could be a ruinous month for the Middle East. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel could weaken U.S.-Israeli relations, especially on the Democratic left. The world might accept an Iranian nuclear capacity.

Efforts designed to palliate a rogue regime may end up enriching and emboldening it. □



The Two Israels

NICHOLAS KRISTOF

© 2015 New York Times

NEGEV DESERT, Israel - For generations, Americans and others have been donating trees to Israel through the Jewish National Fund.

"Planting a tree in Israel is the perfect way to show you care," the fund says on its website. An \$18 donation buys a tree, turns the desert green, protects the environment and supports an embattled Jewish state. The fund says it has planted more than 250 million trees in Israel so far.

Yet here in the Negev Desert in southern Israel, it looks more complicated. The Bedouin Arabs, the indigenous inhabitants, say they are being pushed out of their lands by these trees donated by well-meaning contributors.

"Each of those trees is a soldier causing the destruction of our communities, our lives," Sheikh Sayakh al-Turi, a Bedouin leader, told me. "All those trees are planted on lands of Bedouin who are still living here."

His son, Aziz, says the Jewish National Fund destroyed hundreds of his own fruit and olive trees and then replanted the area with new trees to push out the Bedouin. "They want to delete our history and plant Jewish history," Aziz said. Rabbi Arik Ascherman, the president of Rabbis for Human Rights, a group that is helping the Bedouin, backs up these claims.

"JNF does many good things, but this is the dark side," he said. "Almost anywhere you

go in this country where there is a JNF forest, you will find, at its heart, the ruins of an Arab village."

"I, as a Zionist, believe I have a place here," Ascherman added, "but I don't want to be here by displacing Aziz." The JNF sees it differently, saying that the fundamental problem isn't trees but Bedouin poverty. Russell Robinson, the chief executive of the fund, says the JNF follows Israeli law and forestry plans and that it has some programs that directly combat Bedouin poverty.

That's true, and those anti-poverty efforts seem admirable. Still, I don't think Americans who have donated trees would feel too good after meeting some of the displaced Bedouin, and the tree-planting raises larger questions: Particularly at a time of hard-line Israeli leadership, how can foreigners support Israel without inadvertently oppressing Arabs?

The Negev Desert is part of Israel itself, not the West Bank, and these Bedouin are Israeli citizens. Yet Israel is pushing the Bedouin off their lands and destroying their homes in ways that would never happen if they were Jewish.

"We have, in many ways, an incredibly strong democracy" notes Ascherman, singling out the vibrancy and range of political debate. Yet it doesn't always work well for the Arab minority.

It's also a democracy with contradictions. West Bank Jews vote, but not West Bank

Palestinians. A Jewish kid in Chicago has a birthright to Israel, but not a Palestinian child next door whose roots are in Haifa.

The roughly 200,000 Bedouin Arabs reflect the ways in which Israeli democracy falls short. The government doesn't recognize their land claims and has bulldozed Bedouin villages and then herded them into bleak modern townships that are basically the Israeli equivalent of U.S. Indian reservations.

The Turis' village, Al Araqib, was bulldozed several years ago. When I spoke to the Bedouin, they were huddled in temporary shacks. And the day after I spoke to them, the authorities knocked those shacks down as well.

On my visit here to the Negev, I faced two Israels. One is the thriving democracy that many of us admire, the one that gives disgruntled Arab citizens free speech and ballots, that treats the wounded Syrians brought across the border, that nurtures a civil society that stands up for the Bedouin. This is the Israel that anyone can support without risking harm to Arabs. Any of us would plant a tree in this Israel. (Indeed, Rabbis for Human Rights has its own tree-planting program.)

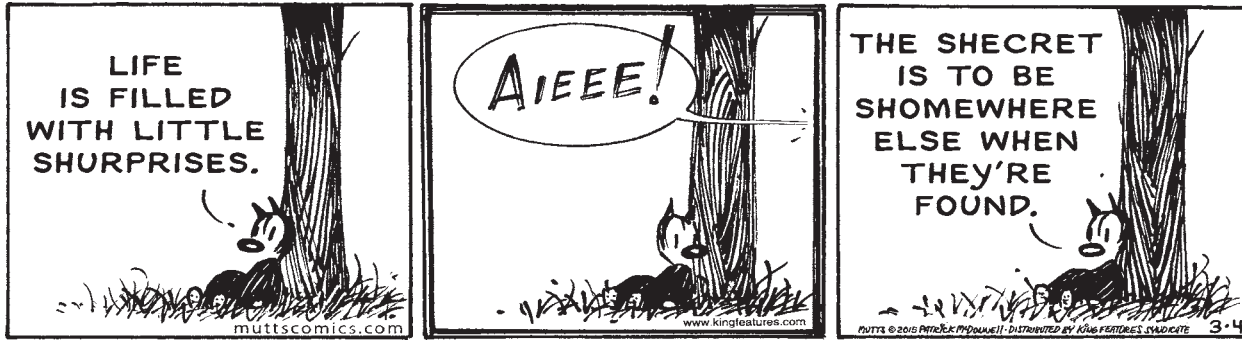
Yet the other Israel has been gaining ground. It's more nationalistic, more militaristic, more determined to push Palestinians off land in the West Bank, more eager to dispatch the United States to bomb Iranian nuclear sites. This is the Israel that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will represent in his address to Congress scheduled for this week.

This is also the Israel that antagonizes many Europeans and Americans. Hard-line policies under Netanyahu are turning support for Israel's government from a bipartisan issue to a Republican one. A poll of Americans published in December found that 51 percent of Republicans wanted the United States to lean toward Israel, but only 17 percent of Democrats agreed (most didn't want to lean either way). Increasingly, the constituency in America that most reliably backs the Israeli government may be not Jews but Evangelical Christians.

With the Netanyahu speech from yesterday, most U.S. politicians will be strutting and jostling to prove their "pro-Israel" credentials. So this is a moment to remember that the better question is which Israel to support.

Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/NickKristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □

Mutts



6 Chix



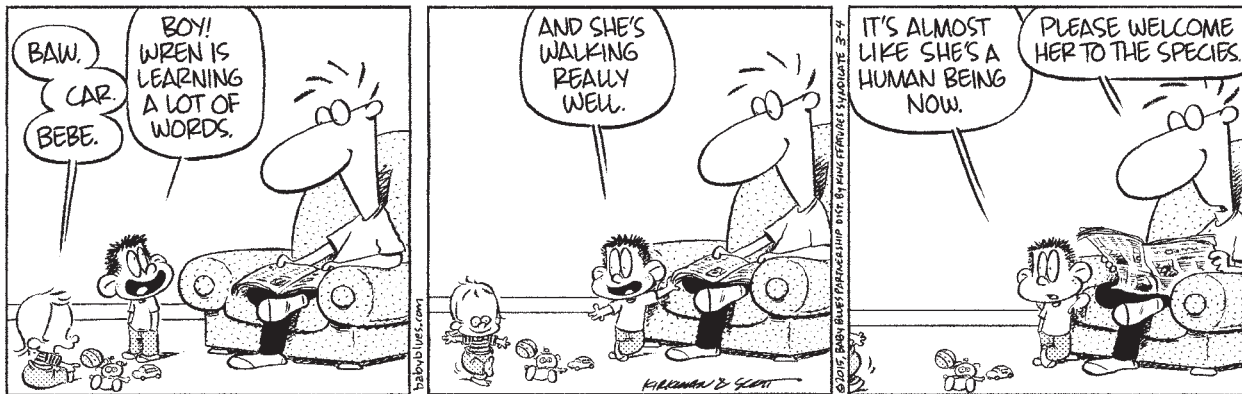
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				3			
	7		2		8		4
		6				7	
			5		7		
4			3	6	1		8 2
2	6			8		3	1
	2	1		5	4	6	
			9	1			
				7			

Difficulty Level ★★

3/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

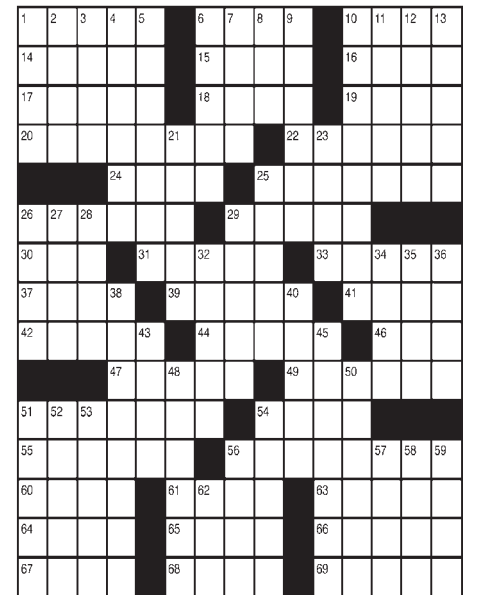
6	4	3	8	9	1	7	2	5
7	5	9	2	4	6	8	3	1
8	2	1	3	7	5	9	6	4
4	1	8	6	2	7	3	5	9
9	7	6	1	5	3	2	4	8
2	3	5	4	8	9	6	1	7
5	6	7	9	3	4	1	8	2
3	9	2	5	1	8	4	7	6
1	8	4	7	6	2	5	9	3

ACROSS

- Broken arm casings
- It was, to a poet
- Very eager
- Luau greeting
- Sworn statement
- Remedy
- Provide with fresh weapons
- Genealogist's diagram
- Family group
- Moral principles
- Fly a plane
- Grand ___; four-run baseball hit
- Lloyd or Jeff
- Uses rod & reel
- Supermarket walkway
- Lincoln, to pals
- ___ with; handled, as a situation
- ___ legislation; make laws
- Golf pegs
- Disneyland attractions
- Bangkok native
- One living abroad
- Naps
- Outdated
- Money hoarder
- Steal cattle
- Modified
- Renown
- Tilted
- Live together no longer
- Body of water
- Arthur of tennis
- Leg bone
- Pennsylvania and Fifth: abbr.
- Saw or wrench
- Drizzles
- Strong urges
- Rams' mates
- Seaweed

DOWN

- Detroit exports
- Sir Guinness



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/4/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

FOAM	SHOPS	AWED
ABLE	TEPEE	TAXI
DELL	ENTREATIES	
EYE	OARS	WELSH
GAWKY	LAS	
STAGES	PORTAL	
TOTED	AHEAD	TED
ITIS	GRIEF	STAY
RHO	CAMEL	SUAVE
ENERGY	JUICES	
DOA	FILTH	
ATTIC	LINK	MRS
THICKENING	DEAL	
MELT	WHEEL	ONCE
SETS	ELUDE	STEW

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3/4/15

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 40 Bra part | 53 ___ aback; surprised |
| 43 Grow weary | 54 Touches |
| 45 Large island of Indonesia | 56 Pump or loafer |
| 48 Put to sleep before surgery | 57 Gets ___ head; grows arrogant |
| 50 Soap opera | 58 Turner or Fey |
| 51 Lessen; ease | 59 At ___; relaxed |
| 52 ___ out; omit | 62 Piglet's mother |

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Dr. Thuis

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NOORD	587-0009
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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
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AMBULANCE	584-5050

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Nepal official says human waste on Everest a major problem

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—

Human waste left by climbers on Mount Everest has become a problem that is causing pollution and threatening to spread disease on the world's highest peak, the chief of Nepal's mountaineering association said Tuesday.

The more than 700 climbers and guides who spend

nearly two months on Everest's slopes each climbing season leave large amounts of feces and urine, and the issue has not been addressed, Ang Tshering told reporters. He said Nepal's government needs to get the climbers to dispose of the waste properly so the mountain remains pristine.

Hundreds of foreign climbers attempt to scale Ever-



In this Oct. 27, 2011 file photo, the last light of the day sets on Mount Everest as it rises behind Mount Nuptse as seen from Tengboche, in the Himalaya's Khumbu region, Nepal.

Associated Press

Classifieds

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STOP
 Violence Against Women

est during Nepal's mountaineering season, which began this week and runs through May. Last year's season was canceled after 16 local guides were killed in an avalanche in April.

Climbers spend weeks acclimatizing around the four camps set up between the base camp at 5,300 meters (17,380 feet) and the 8,850-meter-high (29,035-foot-high) summit. The camps have tents and some essential equipment and supplies, but do not have toilets.

"Climbers usually dig holes in the snow for their toilet use and leave the human waste there," Tshering said, adding that the waste has been "piling up" for years around the four camps.

At the base camp, where there are more porters,

cooks and support staff during the climbing season, there are toilet tents with drums to store the waste. Once filled, the drums are carried to a lower area, where the waste is properly disposed.

Dawa Steven Sherpa, who has been leading Everest cleanup expeditions since 2008, said some climbers carry disposable travel toilet bags to use in the higher camps.

"It is a health hazard and the issue needs to be addressed," he said.

Nepal's government has not come up with a plan yet to tackle the issue of human waste. But starting this season, officials stationed at the base camp will strictly monitor garbage on the mountain, said Pusp Raj Katuwal, the head

of the government's Mountaineering Department.

The government imposed new rules last year requiring each climber to bring down to the base camp 8 kilograms (18 pounds) of trash — the amount it estimates a climber discards along the route.

Climbing teams must leave a \$4,000 deposit that they lose if they don't comply with the regulations, Katuwal said. More than 4,000 climbers have scaled Mount Everest since 1953, when it was first conquered by New Zealand climber Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide, Tenzing Norgay. Hundreds of others have died in the attempt, while many have succeeded only with help from oxygen tanks, equipment porters and Sherpa guides. □

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Franco, Gere movies among entries at Tribeca Film Festival

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The 14th-annual Tribeca Film Festival will feature documentaries on Cuban muscle cars, New Yorker cartoonists and police stun guns.

The downtown New York festival announced half its slate Tuesday, previewing the films that will play in competition.

The festival will feature documentaries across a wide spectrum of subjects, including "Indian Point," on the New York state nuclear facility; "Havana Motor Club," on muscle cars in Cuba; "Tom Swift and his Electric Rifle," on police use of stun guns; and "Very

Semi-Serious," about New Yorker cartoons.

Among the dramatic entries are "The Adderall Diaries," an adaption of Stephen Elliott's memoir starring James Franco; "Franny," a drama about an eccentric older man (Richard Gere) drawn to the daughter (Dakota Fanning) of a dead friend; and "Meadowland," a relationship drama with Olivia Wilde and Luke Wilson.

But documentaries have become known as Tribeca's strongest offerings and are increasingly occupying some of the festival's top showcase slots.

This year's festival, which runs April 15-26, will open

with the "Saturday Night Live" documentary "Live From New York!"

Other documentaries coming to Tribeca this year focus on the Japanese drink sake ("The Birth of Sake"), romance among the autistic ("Autism in Love") and the most-gored bullfighter in history ("Gored"). Albert Maysles will also present



In this Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, James Franco attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special at Rockefeller Plaza in New York. - In this Sept. 7, 2014 file photo, actor Richard Gere seen at the "Time Out Of Mind" premiere at the Elgin Theatre during the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

Associated Press

Apollo Theater to honor Billie Holiday for 100th birthday

NEW YORK (AP)

— The Apollo Theater is planning events to commemorate the 100th birthday of blues singer Billie Holiday.

The legendary American jazz vocalist was born on April

7, 1915, in Philadelphia and died in 1959 in New York City at age 44.

Holiday performed at least two dozen times at the Apollo. She will be inducted into its Walk of Fame on April 6.

The theater also is collaborating with Absolutely Live Entertainment and Sony's Legacy Recordings on other events.



This Sept. 1958 file photo shows Billie Holiday.

Associated Press

Two-time Grammy winner Cassandra Wilson will give a special Apollo concert in honor of Holiday on April 10.

She's also releasing an album called "Coming Forth by Day." It includes original interpretations of 11 recorded Holiday songs. Holiday's autobiography was made into the 1972 film "Lady Sings the Blues." □

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Debate rages over color of dress photographed in rare light

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

It's the dress that's beating the Internet black and blue. Or should that be gold and white?

Friends and co-workers worldwide are debating the true hues of a royal blue dress with black lace that, to many an eye, transforms in one photograph into gold and white. Experts are calling the photo a one-in-a-million shot that perfectly captures how people's brains perceive color and process contrast in dramatically different ways.

"This photo provides the best test I've ever seen for how the process of color correction works in the brain," said Daniel Hardiman-McCartney, the clinical adviser to Britain's College of Optometrists. "I've never seen a photo like before where so many people look at the same photo and see two sets of such dramatically different colors."

The photo, taken earlier this month before a wedding on the remote Scot-



The two-tone dress, left, alongside an ivory and black version, made by Roman Originals, that has sparked a global debate on Twitter over what colour it is on display in Birmingham, England Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.

ish island of Colonsay, also illustrates the dynamics of a perfect social-media storm. Guests at the wedding could not understand why, in one photo of the dress being worn by the mother of the bride, the clearly blue and black-striped gar-

ment transformed into gold and white. But only in that single photo, and only for around half of the viewers. The debate spread from the wedding to the Internet, initially from friend to perplexed friend on Facebook.

One such wedding guest, musician and singer Caitlin McNeill, posted the photo Thursday night to her Tumblr account with the question: "Guys please help me. Is this dress white and gold, or blue and black? Me and my friends can't agree and we are freaking the (expletive) out." She's consistently seen gold.

One of her friends, Alana MacInnes, saw gold and white for the first hour, then black and blue.

Buzzfeed sensed clickbait heaven and, amid its own newsroom argument, was among the first to call McNeill. It posted more than a half-dozen stories on the image and the tsunami of reaction.

On Twitter, #TheDress and variants surged to the top of trending lists globally within hours.

The entertainment elite then chimed in.

Taylor Swift saw the dress was "obviously" blue and black. "What's the matter with u guys, it's white and gold," countered Julianne Moore. Kim Kardashian, never one to miss a trending topic, reported she was seeing gold but to husband Kanye West, it was solidly black and blue. "Who is color blind?" Kardashian asked the twitterati.

The answer, says Hardiman-McCartney, is that every viewer seeing either

set of colors is right.

He says the exceptional bar-code style of the dress, combined with the strongly yellow-toned backlighting in the one photo, provides the brain a rare chance to "choose" which of the dress' two primary colors should be seen in detail.

Those who subconsciously seek detail in the many horizontal black lines convert them to a golden hue, so the blue disappears into a blown-out white, he said. Others whose brains focus on the blue part of the dress see the photo as the black-and-blue reality.

"There's no correct way to perceive this photograph. It sits right on the cusp, or balance, of how we perceive the color of a subject versus the surrounding area," he said. "And this color consistency illusion that we're experiencing doesn't mean there's anything wrong with your eyes. It just shows how your brain chooses to see the image, to process this luminescence confusion."

The photo produced a deluge of media calls Friday to the Tumblr reporter, 21-year-old McNeill, who calls the seemingly endless phone calls "more than I've received in the entirety of the rest of my life combined." She says the photographer, who is also the mother of the bride, never wanted the publicity.

There's one clear winner: English dress retailer Roman Originals, which has reported a million hits on its sales site in the first 18 hours following the photo's worldwide distribution.

"I can officially say that this dress is royal blue with black lace trimming," said Michele Bastock, design director at Roman Originals. She said staff members had no idea that the dress, when shot in that singularly peculiar light, might be perceived in a totally different color scheme.

Not until Friday anyway, when they arrived at work to field hundreds of emails, calls and social media posts. They, too, split almost 50-50 on the photo's true colors. □

Review: Dave Barry's new book filled with humor, insight

JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

"Live Right and Find Happiness (Although Beer is Much Faster)," Dave Barry's latest book of essays, might be thin on page count, but it's worth every penny when it comes to humor and insight.

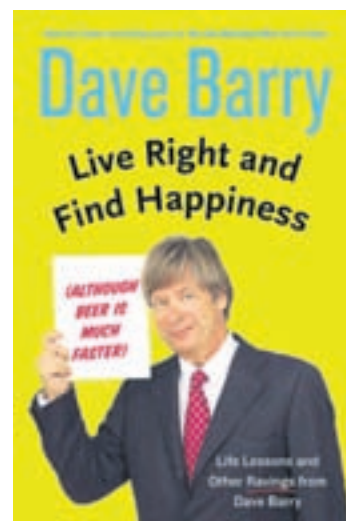
Barry's weekly essays in newspapers around the country has been missed by many for some time now, so it's wonderful to see that he hasn't stopped writing about our foibles and his somewhat unique perspective on what makes us tick. And he's able to do it while invoking out loud laughter.

Parents will appreciate his concerns regarding his teenage daughter getting her learner's permit and the various issues he sees regarding the drivers in the state of Florida where he lives. (According to his

observations, being legally blind does not matter when it comes to having a driver's license there.)

Barry's wife, Michelle Kaufman, is a sportswriter for the Miami Herald, and thanks to her, he's exposed to the joys and sorrows of soccer. He becomes jealous of star David Beckham's good looks after he learns she's going to interview him, and a trip to Brazil to watch the World Cup begins with fear about being robbed, thanks to the shady tour guides he studies in advance. Barry does an amazing job demonstrating why soccer is so beloved — yet not so much in the United States. He uses sarcasm to prove the game isn't quite as boring as a non-fan would believe, and worthwhile even if your child isn't playing in some youth league.

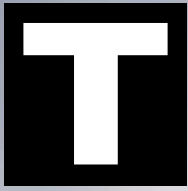
Barry's heart and soul



This photo provided by G.P. Putnam's Sons shows the cover of the book, "Live Right and Find Happiness, (Although Beer is Much Faster)," by author, Dave Barry.

Associated Press

come across on the page even as he throws out another groan-inducing joke. Fans will love this, and newcomers not familiar with his work will find enjoyment as well. □



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